

June, 2016

3rd Sunday Monthly Music Program

Sunday, June 19, 2016

Oyster Point Yacht Club, South San Francisco



SFAC in June: Featuring Paul Pasquali!



At age 6, **Paul Pasquali** began taking piano lessons but by age 8 asked his parents if he could play “that big thing” that Myron Floren played on TV. By the time he was in college, he was playing professionally.

Paul studied music, graphic arts, and business in college. Then in graduate school, Paul began importing and marketing electronic accordions in the United States from ELKA, in Italy. In 1987 he moved to California, joining Colombo and Sons, and in a short time he doubled their sales. He recognized then that there was room for improvement in the midi

accordions being sold and began dreaming of building and marketing his own instrument.

In 1993, Paul returned home to Utah and spent two years developing and refining a state-of-the-art digital/acoustic instrument, which he christened the Concerto. The Concerto is the world’s first true digital accordion. Today four generations later Paul is still manufacturing Concerto accordions and even great plans for the future of the Concerto. Plus recently trademarked the famous San Francisco name Colombo as a tribute to his great days in the Bay Area!

Paul will be performing for the June meeting of the San Francisco Accordion Club and will be performing on the Concerto accordion but will bring along several other accordions for display.

In March 1998, two friends on opposite ends of the earth both said, “Paul, you need to do an accordion convention - and Las Vegas is the place.” He thought he had better listen. One of those friends is Jim Duane from Salt Lake City and the other friend; from the UK - over 7000 miles away - is Gina Brannelli.

Paul has found the time to handle all the details of presenting a top-notch international convention! Paul says, “I enjoy creating a week of fun for accordion enthusiasts the world over – it is like a family reunion each year!”

Continued next page...

Also in June: Ron Harris, Reno DiBono, Dina Gutkina

We are delighted that SFAC member **Ron Harris** will play for us in June. Ron began his accordion career at the age of 4½, studying in San Francisco with Armand Oliveras (1941-45); Joe Lazzarin (1946-48); and Angelo Cagnazzo (1948- 51). Ron was about 12 years old when he began his lessons with Angelo and would ride the bus, carrying his accordion, from his family's home in Daly City to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, where he could hear fellow student and future accordion legend Dick Contino practicing upstairs. Ron finished his studies with Leo Giusti (1951-54) in Daly City. When he was 13 years old, Ron performed on the Horace Heidt Radio and TV Talent Show.



Gutkina Dina was born in Gomel, Belarus. At age 6 she began her professional education at a musical school, department of folk instruments, specialty in bayan (Russian Button Accordion). Dina continued at Sokolovsky musical college at 14, and at 18 graduated with the diploma of bayan performer, teacher, and folk orchestra conductor. At 21 she entered Cultural University in Minsk, Belarus – bayan specialty at the folk instruments department. At 23, in 1993 Dina, her parents and sister's family immigrated to the U.S.

Having come to San Francisco, Dina performed at the "Ladies' Night" at the San Francisco Accordion Club; Russian center's festivals; Fisherman's Wharf; accompanied dance ensembles "Little Russia", "Khadra", choir "Savina"; performed as a soloist at concerts, parties, day care centers—on bayan and button keyboard. In the Russian-speaking community Dina is the only female playing bayan, and the only free-bass playing bayanist. Dina also accompanies her father performing his own and other poets' and composers' songs. Dina's repertoire is vast, various, and multicultural.

Dina is deeply grateful to her father Eduard, a medical doctor by profession who helps her as a musical director and producer, and to her dear mom, Meri, the love for whom is the essence of her life. And also to her teachers, known Gomel bayanists Zlotnikov V.A. and Bulgakov D.G. with whom, despite the distance, she tries to maintain friendly creative relations.

Reno Di Bono will also entertain us in June. Reno is well known in Northern California and the Bay



Area as an extremely talented accordionist who plays and sings Italian and French melodies with great flair and warmth. His musical styles include Louie Prima, Dean Martin, Al Martino, Jerry Vale, Pavarotti and Bocelli.

Reno's specialty is

Italian music, with over 30 songs in Sicilian, Neapolitan or Piedmontese dialects in his repertoire. He has played at Italian weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and a few funerals. He has produced two CDs: Songs of My Father, an Italian CD and The Jazz Accordion. Reno has an exciting website at <http://www.italianaccordion.com/>. We look forward to hearing Reno play for us again.



Dina Gutkina plays with Stas Venglevski for the SFAC in 2016, photo by Eduard Gutkin, Dina's father

Jim Holliday's Memorial

By Shirley Brim

Photos by Steve Mobia

The May 2016 program of the SFAC was a tribute to the club's 26th anniversary and a memorial to one of the five founding members, Jim Holliday. Evelyn Baulch, Jim's life partner, sponsored this program of some Bay Area accordion greats.

This program was a tour de force of amazing accordion music in groups with other instruments that bring out the best of our favorite instrument and broadened the spectrum of beautiful music we heard. Evelyn and Jim loved dancing to "Begin the Beguine", and all three groups played it, in three different styles, the last (the Marotta group), in the

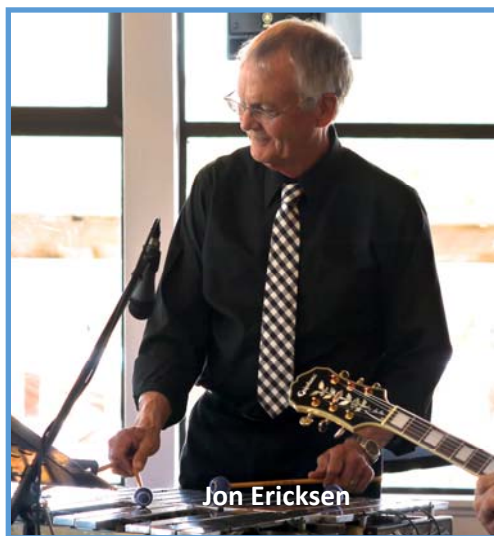


rhythm of Ravel's Bolero". Ron Borelli's tribute group to Art Van Damme kicked things off with a

stylish tribute to Art Van Damme's famous jazz accordion music. Ron's group includes accordion, electric guitar, vibraphone, string bass and drums. It's a great mix of instruments and they play Art's music with great flair. The group played mostly Art's jazz arrangements, although they also included Ron's arrangement of "An Affair to Remember." You can hear more of Ron Borelli's Van Damme tribute group the first Thursday of the month, at the DoubleTree Hotel on Airport Blvd. in Burlingame from 6-9 pm. There's no cover charge; they play in the lounge for dinner or

cocktails.

We were carried away by the group's music, with beautiful renditions of "Rosetta," "That Old Feeling," "Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise," "Green Dolphin Street," "Laura," "An Affair to Remember" (Ron Borelli's arrangement), "Cheek to Cheek" and of course, "Begin the Beguine."



The Peter Di Bono trio took the stage after Ron, changing musical styles and carrying us away again with more amazing music. Peter's group includes his accordion and Harriett Newhart on violin, and



Continued next page.....



popular Mike Marotta, Jr. Mike carries on in his father's footsteps, playing amazing accordion music in the Monterey area. He brought Dave Dally and his violin, as well as Orazio Aiello's amazing tenor voice to enrich the music. Mike plays in many groups in the Monterey area including Monterey Strings, and with a wide variety of other musicians as well. You can find more information on their website, www.montereystrings.com.

The group's songs brought many beautiful memories: "Wilkommen," "Cabaret." "Lady

they were joined by Tom Martin on string bass; this beautiful mix of instruments brings depth and great feeling to their music. The group plays around the Bay Area for private events as well as



appearances with the San Francisco Symphony and other Bay Area orchestras.

The group wowed us with their songs: "Innamorata," "Mattinata," a Fred Astaire medley of "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails," "Puttin' on

the Ritz" and "Dancing Cheek to Cheek." They followed this with a beautiful Phantom of the Opera medley of "All I Ask of You" and "The Music of the Night." They finished their set with "Kiss of Fire," "Moonlight in Vermont," "How Long Has This Been Going On?", a French waltz medley and "Begin the Beguine."



St Claire de Versailles," "Por Una Cabeza," "Time to Say Goodbye," "Granada," "Delilah," "Woodpecker Polka," "Marina, Marina" and "Begin the Beguine." The music completed an amazing musical tribute to the legacy of music and friendship that Jim Holliday leaves behind with his friends and the San Francisco Accordion Club.



After the break, we were treated to the stylish and

Continued next page.....

Jim, we'll miss you! And we'll remember you every time the SFAC comes together to play and enjoy the music of our favorite instrument!



Marian Kelly views a poster display of Jim Holliday's career and musical highlights



Dominic Palmisano and Evelyn Baulch



Jim Holliday memorial pins were worn at our May gathering



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DISCOUNT COTATI TICKETS

Advance Purchase Only!

The SFAC is delighted to offer members a discounted price on tickets purchased in advance for the Cotati Accordion Festival, August 20-21. The reduced rate will be \$15 for 1-day tickets (\$19 at the gate) and \$25 for 2-day tickets (\$29 at the gate), available for purchase ONLY in person at the SFAC musical programs of **June 19th and July 17th**. Here is a great opportunity to not only save some money but also increase the public presence of the SFAC at this great accordion event! Thanks to Linda Connor, Scott Goree and the other hard-working staff at the Cotati Festival for extending this offer to our members. Please do take advantage of it!

CHANGES COMING FOR THE FALL SEASON

A Message from the SFAC Board

Dear Fellow Members – Twenty-six years ago, the 5 founding members gathered at a private residence to see and play a new midi accordion and talk some more. And so the Bay Area Accordion Club, later named the San Francisco Accordion Club, was born. The rest is history! The club has thrived for 26 years, supporting and showcasing the talents of many fine accordion players, and encouraging new players.

After all these years, we're looking forward to an exciting new fall season and also want to inform you of some new meeting formats our Board of Directors will be implementing, partly to acknowledge the ever-increasing challenges of sponsoring a full-scale monthly meeting and partly from a desire to return to our original roots as an informal get-together.

So, starting with September, "odd-numbered" months will continue in our usual "formal" 2-hour format with the jam session prior to the meeting, various performers during the 1st hour and fea-

tured performers during the 2nd hour. Starting with our October, 2016 meeting and subsequent "even" months, meetings will offer a new, updated format to provide more opportunities to partake in the jam sessions and for members to play in a more informal setting, which will include a participatory, informal "club" style meeting. The meetings will open with our usual jam book and jam session for approximately a half hour, followed by informal performances by anyone wishing to play a song or two. Perhaps we'll have these sign-ups in advance, so performers can prepare and know they will get a chance to play but there will also be a sign-up sheet at the door. Individuals will be able to sign up for a period ranging between 3 minutes and 10 minutes. Members and guests will be encouraged to bring accordions to sell, music to share, music or CD's to sell, and whatever. This will provide an opportunity for members to help each other informally and pick up playing and performing skills. We're also considering having workshops a couple of times a year at some of these meetings. There will still be an admission for all meetings, so as to enable the renting of the Oyster Point facility. Our newsletter will continue to be published on a monthly basis.

This will be an experiment-in-the-making, which we hope will offer more comfortable and pressure-free opportunities for everyone to participate. So, kick up your heels, play a piece or two, and enjoy!

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices **for members**:

1/4-page: \$25: 1/2-page: \$50: Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

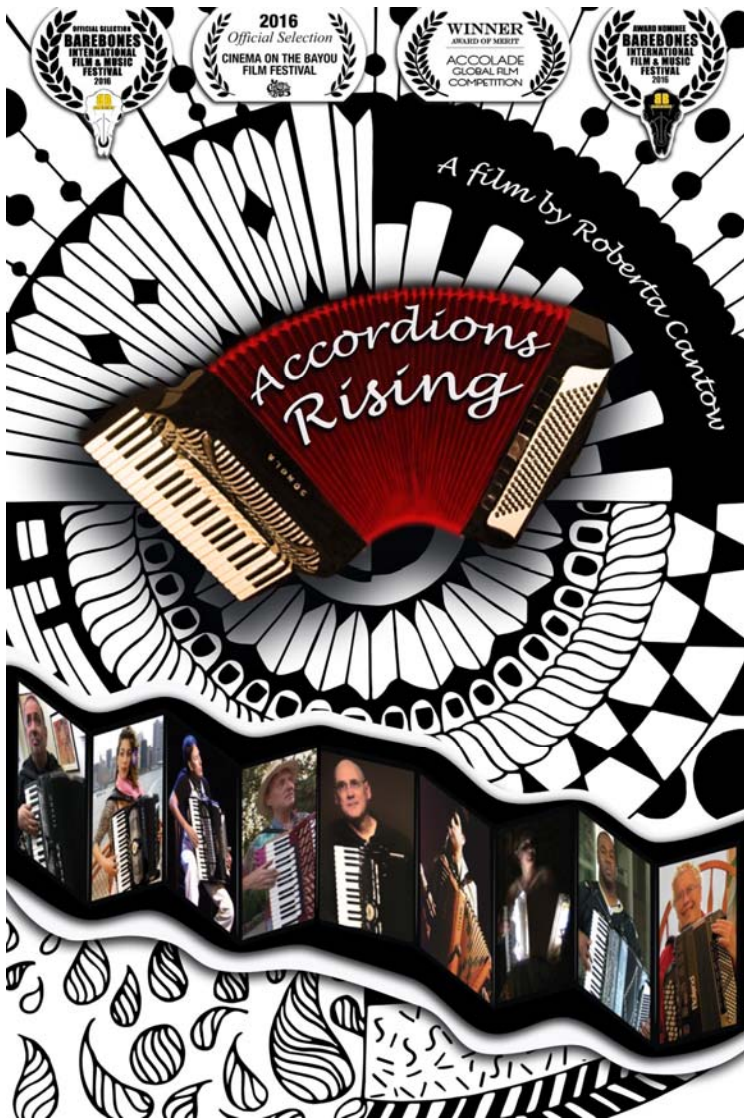
Play with the Jam Band

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, make new accordion friends and have WAY TOO MUCH FUN!

Join us 1:15-2pm for a traditional jam session before the monthly Sunday music program at Oyster Point Yacht Club.

SFAC Scholarships Available

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact Mike Zampiceni for a scholarship application (see contact information on page 11.)



Accordions Rising by Emmy Award winning film maker Roberta Canow, is a music documentary feature film (74 min) about the resurgence of interest in accordion music over the last 30-40 years. Although many continue to see the accordion as the stodgy instrument of a bygone era - and accordion jokes abound – this film sets the record straight.

The film is the story of the variety, diversity and extraordinary virtuosity of the instrument and the music that it can make. Touching on its history but focusing on the present, the film offers entertaining and conversational style interviews, anecdotal commentary and both formal and informal music performance examples from celebrated accordionists, composers and bands performing in America today. The film provides a tapestry of fascinating individuals, their deep passions, and above of all else, profound dedi-

cation to the instrument. Though still a rebellious lot, these (primarily NY based) music makers have an audience in some of the hippest hideaways and most sought after mainstream venues. The film makes clear that the so-called “accordion world” is actually a curious continuum that includes everything from its folk roots, and wacky or kitsch to sophisticated, serious, meditative and post modern.

Participants include **Guy Klucevsek**, a thoughtful and reflective composer/accordionist, prominent in new music circles ; **William Schimmel**, master accordionist, exuberant and philosophical; **Pauline Oliveros**, electronic and experimental improviser with a serious intellectual approach; **Will Holshouser**, jazz accordionist extraordinaire, low key as can be; **Rachelle Garniez**, singer, songwriter, musician, perhaps the edgy rebel, **Peter Stan**, Ambassador of Roma Music “par excellence”, warm and personable; **Bob Goldberg** with his Famous Accordion Orchestra, spirited and community minded, and **Nicole Renaud** with her “illuminated accordion,” angelic soprano voice, and steadfast French charm; **among others**.

To join the mailing list, get more info and see the trailer: www.accordionsrising.com

For DVD/Blu Ray purchase information: rcantow@originaldigital.net

Join In the Fun!

Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and help make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group.

Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Contact Lynn Ewing, ewinglynn@gmail.com, 650-867-2633 to find out how to get in on the action!

Upcoming Accordion Events



26th Annual
COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
AUGUST 20 & 21, 2016
 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM - LA PLAZA PARK IN COTATI



BUFFALO SQUEEZE-FEST
 American Accordionists' Association
July 6-10, 2016 – Buffalo, NY
 AAA Festival - Workshops, hands-on sessions,
 spectacular concerts, world premiere
www.ameraccord.com/festival.html for information.



Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration
June 16-19, 2016
 Leavenworth, Washington
 Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society

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Bay Area Accordion Clubs

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission donation
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
Pietro's No. 2,
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7pm.
Humboldt Swiss Club
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

Sacramento Chapter

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.
Old Spaghetti Factory,
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center,
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon
Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose
www.svasociety.org
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI *San Mateo* - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER *Carmel* - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO *San Francisco* www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO *South Bay* - ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*
accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* www.alpinersusa.com
or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. *East Bay* - edspolkas@yahoo.com

GLENN HARTMAN *San Francisco*
glennhartman@gmail.com

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kirschner@aol.com www.klezmakers.com

NADA LEWIS *East Bay & San Francisco*
folkloric@value.net www.folkloric.net

BIG LOU, aka LINDA SEEKINS *San Francisco*
www.accordionprincess.com

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- Mike Zampiceni**, Secretary (408) 569-2579

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ALL07@aol.com

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(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

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eclecticguy@comcast.net

PLAY for your club!

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

Dominic Palmisano
(415) 587-4423 accord47@gmail.com OR

Lynn Ewing
(650) 453-3391 ewinglynn@gmail.com



Contact any member of the board to volunteer. See February Newsletter for descriptions of tasks, small or large, remote or on-site, that you can do to help the SFAC continue its excellent programs and activities!

Please Remember...
Help keep our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. THANK YOU!

Join us the third Sunday of each month at the
Oyster Point Yacht Club • 911 Marina Blvd • South San Francisco

SFAC SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM

Come for fun and great music!!

June 19 at 2pm

**Paul Pasquali, Reno DiBono,
Ron Harris, Dina Gutkina**

Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for guests
The jam band will play from 1:15-2:00



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DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 (North or South) in South San Francisco, take the Oyster Point Blvd exit and follow signs to Marina Blvd. Avoid turning right onto Gull Drive, immediately before Marina Blvd.

Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club sign on the left.

Amp Up the FUN!

SFAC Membership is \$35 per year for individual or family (\$5 discount for online newsletter option). Join or renew using PayPal or a credit card at: www.sfaccordionclub.com
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San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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